

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A catalyst body comprising a carrier, a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal, loaded on the carrier, which catalyst further contains a substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over reaction between main components of the carrier and the alkali metal.

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2. (Previously amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

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3. (Previously amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer further contains at least one member of the noble metals selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

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4. (Previously amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is contained in the carrier.

5. (Previously amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is contained in the catalyst layer.

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6. (Previously amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein a layer of the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main component of the carrier and the alkali metal is formed between the carrier and the catalyst layer.

7. (Original) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier is a honeycomb carrier.

8. (Original) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

duplicate of [4]
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9. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed in the carrier.

duplicate of [6]
10. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed between the carrier and the catalyst layer.

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11. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed in the heat-resistant inorganic material. ^{oxide}?
